



Helping People Help Themselves

SPARE

May 21 - June 3, 2010

CHANGE

NEWS

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Your vendor buys this paper for 25¢ and keeps all the proceeds. Please purchase from vendors with blue badges only.

Spare Change News

is published by the
HOMELESS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (HEP)

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The Streets Are Watching

As the ink birthing these serified letters dries, Spare Change News celebrates eighteen years of continuous publication in Greater Boston. Amid myriad tumultuous moments—which have included many sterling success stories as well as some disappointing setbacks—the newspaper has unfailingly rolled off of the presses. Although many have passed through the low-ceilinged hallways of our basement headquarters—I am one of a long series of men and women who have inhabited the role of editor—Spare Change has never drifted from its mission to empower people by providing an economic opportunity and a forum for the amplification of voice.

In case you are not yet familiar with the history of Spare Change, here is a brief synopsis. The paper was founded in 1992 by a group of then-homeless individuals and one housed advocate. It began as a monthly publication, later printing biweekly, and continuously maintaining circulation numbers between 7500 and 12,000 per issue. Numbers of enrolled and active vendors have fluctuated over the years, with about 90 currently enlisted. Spare Change has prided itself on promoting diversity in its editorial content, and although its primary focus is on issues surrounding poverty and homelessness the publication is devoted to promoting dialogue about multiple realms of social justice and advocacy for marginalized peoples.

Spare Change News recently commemorated the significance of 18 years of work towards job creation and voice elevation with a Gala and Silent Auction, held at the Inn at Harvard on May 8th. The event was widely hailed by guests as successful and the numbers reflect such an interpretation—the gala raised over \$3000 for the organization and enabled Spare Change vendors, staff and Homeless Empowerment Project board members to network with the more than fifty community members in attendance. And while we are satisfied with the result of the auction, we are also eager to employ what we have learned towards planning an improved event next spring. For photos of the 18th Anniversary Gala, see page 8 of this issue. Also, please refer to page 16 to see a list of donors and winning bidders to whom we owe

gratitude for their generous contributions to the silent auction.

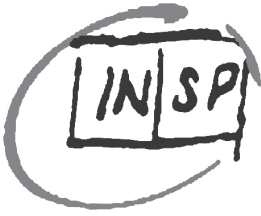
Culturally, the number 18 commands substantial meaning. In the United States, this is the age at which people are bestowed with the rights, privileges, and responsibilities attached to American citizenship. We can vote, enter military service, marry without parent consent, buy lottery tickets—in many ways, we are expected to comport ourselves with a measure of maturity commensurate with entrance into adulthood. In a similar way, at 18 Spare Change celebrates its coming of age, a rite associated with the desire to reinvigorate a connection to its past while simultaneously expanding its vision for the future.

Senior vendor Charles, who sells Spare Change at Park Street, hopes for a successful future for the newspaper, in which “people will recognize that it’s more than just what the title says.” Charles’ sentiment echoes that of the organization generally—we want to raise public awareness that Spare Change does not mean giving charity to panhandlers. Instead, our vendors are self-employed workers who sell a product that reflects their personal values. Our vendors are striving to improve their own lives, meanwhile giving back to their communities. As vendor the Reverend Edward puts it, “The paper is not just for us to sell. It’s for us to help the homeless. That’s my purpose.” Rev. Edward gives a portion of the money he earns from sales to the church and for medicine, food and clothing for homeless individuals in his community.

After 18 years, Spare Change continues to be foremost about its vendors. As long as these dedicated men and women continue to devote their lives to self-empowerment and to building their families and communities, the newspaper will remain strong. In parallel, the community members and advocates who comprise our organization will persistently strive to provide stability and support, and to create expanded opportunities for vendors. Together, we look forward to the next 18 years, with the bittersweet hope that in the future homelessness and poverty will no longer be the plague that necessitates employment programs such as street newspapers. Until then, Spare Change will continue to raise its voice.



North American
Street Newspaper Assn.



www.street-papers.org

Vision & Mission

Spare Change News was founded in 1992 by a group of homeless people and a member of Boston Jobs with Peace. Spare Change is published by the nonprofit organization The Homeless Empowerment Project (HEP).

SPARE CHANGE'S GOAL:

“To present, by our own example, that homeless and economically disadvantaged people, with the proper resources, empowerment, opportunity, and encouragement are capable of creating change for ourselves in society.”

HEP'S OBJECTIVES:

To empower the economically disadvantaged in Greater Boston through self-employment, skill development and self-expression. To create forums, including those of independent media in order to reshape public perception of poverty and homelessness.

Staying After School: Midnight Classes Redefine Higher Education

Adam Sennott
Spare Change News

A local community college is redefining what it means to stay after school. Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) is completing the second semester of its award-winning midnight classes curriculum this week. The school pioneered the program last fall; it gives students who must to work during the day a chance to attend college while also dealing with the school’s ever growing student population.

The idea for the midnight classes originated in the fall of 2008 after Adjunct Professor Dr. Kathleen O’Neil noticed several students falling asleep during her Principals of Psychology class.

“I was teaching two separate classes,” said O’Neil, who also teaches a seminar for U.S. military veterans. “[One student] who would come to class, he would fall asleep in class. I think he worked stock at a grocery store. He would apologize so much, saying how much he really loved the class, how much he really wanted to do well, but he worked late at night and just couldn’t get to class. And when he got to class he couldn’t stay awake.”

O’Neil continued, “At the same time I was teaching another class, and this guy worked in Cambridge in a restaurant, and he said he too loved the class; he just could not get to class at 10 in the morning.”

O’Neil later went and pitched her idea to the chairperson of the Behavioral Science Department and midnight classes became a reality. In the fall 2009 semester, BHCC offered their first two midnight classes, Principals of Psychology and College Writing, becoming the first college in the country to do so.

Since then, O’Neil says she has noticed a variety of different students enrolling in midnight classes. However, the majority of them are older students who would not be able to attend classes during the day.

“Overall I would say, in terms of all the many different ways you look at students, they are across the board,” O’Neil said. “We do have some 18 year olds, although as a group they do tend to be older. I would say more often than not they have kids, but then again there are some students who are taking [the

course] because they couldn’t get in [during] the daytime.”

One student who takes midnight classes said she does so because it’s one of the only times that her schedule allows her to attend school. Kristen Casazza is a single mother who cannot attend classes during the day because she has been unable to secure daycare for her daughter.

“I am a single mother and I have been on a waiting list for a voucher for daycare,” said Casazza, who also works at Nonnie’s Pizza. “I have to take care of my daughter during the day.”

Although Casazza gets baby-sitting help from her parents, she has to juggle her work schedule and study time around when they are available to baby-sit.

“My parents help me out with [child care], but I technically have to make my schedule around when they can help me.” Casazza said. “And then [there’s] my work schedule and spending time with my daughter.”

Casazza described her schedule, “I come [to class] and stay here until 2:45 a.m. I have to wake up at about 7:30-8 with my daughter, and then I have to come back here at 10:30 tomorrow morning for another class. Go back home, get her, feed her lunch then go to work at 4:30. Work until about midnight again, and go to class at about nine o’clock in the morning on Saturday.”

Another student enrolled in midnight classes because his job and family obligations currently prevent him from taking classes during the day. The man is Boston Police Officer Dennis Medina.

“I was actually working and I drove by Bunker Hill and I saw a sign that said, ‘Burn the midnight oil,’” said Medina, a criminal justice major at BHCC. “I looked at my partner and I said to him, ‘I think that’s my class.’”

Medina later signed up for a college writing course at midnight. However, like many other midnight students, his biggest obstacle is keeping up with his course work while also keeping Boston a safe place to live.

“For me it’s just fitting it all in,” Medina said. “Fitting in the classes between work, getting the study time in, still doing the stuff that I like to do, working out, hanging out. You know, doing things that would be normal for you almost takes a back seat so that you can get time in to finish your work.”

Medina added, “For right now it works extremely well with my schedule because I work 4-11:45 p.m. There are days...sometimes I have court [up to five times a week]. It all depends. There will be weeks when there is no court, and there will be weeks where I am in court everyday. That, and my days off change every week, so I don’t have a set schedule in that way.”

Currently BHCC offers three mid-

night classes: Principals of Psychology, College Writing II, and Human Growth and Development. The college is planning to add more midnight classes for next fall.

“Teaching the midnight classes has actually been a real eye opener, just in terms of the types of students who are so interested and so dedicated to achieving their dreams,” said O’Neil. “For many of our students it’s been decades since they have been in school.”

Midnight classes also brought BHCC a Gold for Communications Success Story at the Paragon Awards this year. This distinction is given in recognition for outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges by the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations. The award was accepted on behalf of BHCC by Colleen Roach, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing, who ran one of the largest media and marketing campaigns in the history on the college.

While the college has received accolades for its innovative course offerings, its students are also being recognized for excellence. Along with attending midnight classes, Medina was selected to be part of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Take America to College competition, a nationwide video competition featuring the struggles of non-traditional students trying to complete college. Earlier this year, Medina and the Take America To College team traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with federal policy makers and share his story.

“For me, it was for them to realize that there are working men and women who are struggling, that aren’t being helped, that aren’t looked out for,” Medina said. “When I say that, I mean you’ve got people who are working full-time jobs and they are not getting that benefit, you know the financial aid or the assistance because they are working, so it’s almost like the working man and woman is being punished because they are working.”

To view Medina’s video visit <http://www.takeamericatocollege.com/auditions-gallery/vote-for-a-finalist/>.

For more information about Bunker Hill Community College, please visit <http://www.bhcc.mass.edu/>.



Hector Gonzalez, 23, of Chelsea, Mass., right, looks over the course syllabus distributed by professor Kathleen O’Neill, left, for the Principals of Psych course on the first night of midnight classes of the fall 2009 semester. (ASSOCIATED PRESS)

A Coastal Conundrum: Global Warming and Mass.

Robert Sondak
Spare Change News

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a 192 mile coast line that stretches from Newburyport to Provincetown. Within this environmental infrastructure exist Boston, the capital city; Logan Airport, the nation's sixth largest; Cape Cod; Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and Georges Bank. This environment is home to over 4 million people, as well as the North Atlantic's premiere commercial fishing grounds.

The four million coastal residents along with the Georges Bank fishing grounds are all located within 100 miles of the Boston metropolis. As such, they are constantly struggling with the effects of global warming. Global warming refers to increases in the temperature of the earth's surface, atmosphere and ocean bodies. Environment Massachusetts—a statewide, citizen-based advocacy organization—has reported that the global surface temperature rose 1.3 degrees between the start and the end of the 20th century.

Ben Wright, global warming advocate for Environment Massachusetts, released a climate change report highlighting the fact that 2007 was the 10th warmest summer on record for the U.S. and was tied for the second warmest globally. The Blue Hills Observatory (BHO) weather station reported a summer season last year that was 1.2 degrees above normal. The BHO reported an increase in 90 degree days by 50 percent, as compared with the beginning of the first decade following the millennium.

Global Warming and People

The four million Massachusetts coastal residents are vulnerable to two main sources of water: the ocean and rainfall. Global warming affects sea levels by causing ocean water to expand. Expansion is caused by storm surges (hurricanes and Nor'easters) and also melting land-based ice. Massachusetts' densely populated coastal areas face increases in flooding, erosion and property damage. The inner coasts and outer coasts of Cape Cod and the North-shore and South-shore have been losing 0.6 feet per year. The State Environmental Department pointed out that we have lost 63 acres of coastland due to climate change. Coastal property owners have lost property and in some instances have lost coastal property insurance.

Environment Massachusetts elaborated that precipitation is projected to

increase statewide, with less snow and more rainfall by at least 20 to 30 percent. Heavy, damaging rainfall has occurred in each of the last four years. In 2009, Massachusetts received 3 to 5 days of heavy rainfall in both May and June, with 50 degree temperatures that helped foster blight and contributed to farmers losing 30 percent of their tomatoes and 20 percent of their potato crop. This year, we had a week of heavy rainfall that damaged houses north of Boston and on the South-shore.

Harsh storms—hurricanes and Nor'easters—are impacted by global warming. Warm water and moist air, two characteristics of global warming, are important factors in the gestation of hurricanes. Hurricanes start with warm moist air from the ocean surface that begins to rise rapidly when it encounters cooler air. This causes the warm water vapor to condense, forming clouds and then dropping heavy rain. Nor'easters on the other hand form from when colder Canadian air clashes with warm air masses over the ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. They form when a low pressure meets a high pressure system and yield snow or freezing rain. These winter storms create driving forces of waves and ocean flooding that damage the coastal shore, homes and businesses.

Global Warming and Georges Bank

Georges Bank fishing grounds lie off of the Massachusetts coast and extend all the way up to Nova Scotia, Canada. It is the major commercial fishing ground utilized by both the United States and Canada. Georges Bank represents a very complex and productive ecosystem that is influenced by temperature and the structure of the water column. The highest levels of production occur in the spring and fall. Warming temperatures and spring sunlight cause phytoplankton bloom. This results in increases in harvesting of fish like cod.

Severe upward temperature changes and warm water are two major factors in global warming that greatly affect the ability of Georges Bank to produce fishing stock. Changes in this ecosystem like a 1 degree increase in temperature would reduce the production of phytoplankton and thereby reduce the fishing stock. Temperature change in the warmer summer inhibits phytoplankton reproduction, thus not making it the ideal for fish spawning. Fish spawning occurs in the cooler spring season when the exchange of nutrients and deep sea water produce a boom in phytoplankton.



The National Oceanic Atmospheric Agencies (NOAA) conducted research that indicates that rising temperatures suggest that the hatching of species like cod could begin to occur earlier in the season. This might impact the ability of the species to reproduce and endanger its long-term survival. Another concern is commercial pollution such as land-based CO2 emission levels that tend to raise temperatures. Yet another potential issue would be any oil drilling that could occur along the coast. Such activity could potentially produce leaks on offshore platforms. Oil exploration off of the Massachusetts coast could incite fires that would pollute the entire region. This is the scenario occurring currently in the Gulf of Mexico, as BP and the Coast Guard are unable to cap the leaking oil from a collapsed oil platform that is now submerged in over 1,000 feet of water.

Global Warming: An Act to Promote Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Reduce The Usage of Fossil Fuel For Vehicles in the Commonwealth

State Represent Frank Smizik of Brookline has drafted a bill focused on greenhouse gases for new vehicles based on an emissions scale determined by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). This bill introduces the concept of a rebate or surcharge added to the purchase price for autos from dealers within the state, which would focus on reducing greenhouse gases like CO2. This proposed legislation has been sent back to the committee for further research and policy development work.

I called the state house legislative office and asked the senior legislative aid a series of questions about the Act. According to the office's spokesperson, the bill "needs more research and policy development work before it can be enacted into law." She elaborated, "The chairman has removed the bill from consideration for the 2010 legislature." The bill will tentatively be reintroduced in the 2011 legislative session after it is researched.

The American Power Act

U. S. Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts and Joe Lieberman of Connecticut have introduced a bill before the U.S. Senate that will focus on our country's energy needs. This bill would establish national guidelines for reducing carbon levels by 17 percent in 2020 and by over 80 percent in 2050. This bill calls for establishing a ceiling and price cap program for exceeding target limits by large manufacturers or power suppliers who emit greenhouse gases. Revenues will be collected for corporations that exceed the established limits. Two-thirds of these revenues will be partially returned to consumers in the form of rebates and energy bill reductions. The balance will be used for deficit control and alternate energy development.

Conclusions

State Representative Smirik's bill deserves further review because it encourages citizens to reduce emissions by buying low emissions vehicles, based on standards set by the state EOEEA and the UN (IPCC). This bill gives rebates

continued on next page

Soldiers Attack Homeless Camp

Gregory Flannery
Streetvibes, Cincinnati

A gang went hunting in Spring Grove village [Ohio] for a homeless man to beat up April 10. When they were finished, John Johnson needed 18 stitches in his head, and his girlfriend was in fear for her life. The brutality of the attack was shocking in itself—but even more so was the fact that three of the four suspects are soldiers in the U.S. Army.

Johnson, 52, says he was sleeping under a highway overpass at about 3am when four men attacked him.

“I was awakened by four young men telling me to exit the property,” he says. “As I was complying with them, they started beating me with pipes and bats upside the head and up and down the left side of my body.”

Initial reports speculated that the assailants were skinheads. But 16 days after the attack, Cincinnati Police obtained warrants for three men serving in the U.S. Army.

On April 26, police charged Michael Hesson, 24, of Norwood, Ohio, with felonious assault. His bond was set at \$5,000. The next day Riley Feller, 24, stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was arrested at the base in Fort Knox, Kentucky, pending extradition to Hamilton County.

Military police were looking for the other two suspects, who are also stationed at Fort Bragg. At Streetvibes press time, those two soldiers had not been named.

‘Cold and calculated’

Johnson was attacked a few weeks after the city of Cincinnati had trimmed trees obscuring a small homeless camp on Mitchell Avenue near Interstate 75. As a result, the handful of people living there were exposed to almost constant public view during daylight hours.

What wasn’t well known was that people at the camp didn’t sleep in the



shack that was visible to traffic; they slept under an overpass bridging Mill Creek.

The fact that the four attackers knew where to find Johnson indicates that the assault was pre-meditated, according to Josh Spring, executive director of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless.

“This one was planned,” he said. “They had the same haircut, they had the same clothes. They went to where these people were sleeping. When they left, they kept their headlights off.”

Johnson’s description of the assailants made them sound like skinheads—racist thugs whose trademark is a shaved head. He said the suspects had short haircuts and wore black jackets with some kind of metallic insignia.

“I got a good look at a couple of them,” Johnson said.

But for three of the men accused of attacking Johnson, short haircuts were the mark of military service.

The attackers allegedly beat Johnson and chased him up a hill, calling him a “bum” and saying, “We don’t want you here,” and “Get a job.” The assailants threatened a woman staying with Johnson but didn’t harm her, he says.

Like Spring, Johnson believes the

attack was pre-meditated.

“This was not some guys out half-drunk, having a good time at my expense,” he says. “These guys were cold and calculated. It was planned.”

Johnson participated in an April 23 press conference with Spring, who said the Homeless Coalition waited nearly two weeks to publicize the attack at the request of Cincinnati Police investigators. Spring said police asked him to keep the assault quiet so the suspects wouldn’t be alert. Spring developed several leads, including a woman who told police that several of the assailants were U.S. soldiers.

‘They were targeted’

Cheryl Meadows, director of the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, says the attack on Johnson is part of a growing trend.

“Because of the recent economic crisis, we’re beginning to see hate crimes that we haven’t seen before,” she says. “It is quite a concern that the Human Relations Commission wants to bring to the forefront.”

The Rev. Dave Weaver, pastor of Nast Trinity United Methodist Church in Over-the-Rhine, also says hate crimes are on the rise.

“I’m hearing more and more about these kinds of incidents,” he says. “There seems to be some escalation. Hate of any kind cannot be tolerated.”

In the past year at least four homeless people in Cincinnati have been assaulted. While the motivation behind some of those assaults might be unclear, the attack on Johnson was plain in its purpose, Spring says.

“This is not just one person beating another person,” he says. “They were targeted because they were homeless. That means they might do it again.”

Johnson says he lived at the camp on Mitchell Avenue for about two years and never experienced any difficulty until April 10. He says he is no longer living outdoors. He too fears the people who attacked will strike again.

“They’re dangerous people and could end up killing somebody,” he says. “I came through this OK. My concern is to get these people off the streets.”

Prior to the attack, the homeless camp on Mitchell Avenue had been the scene of occasional good deeds. Employees of a nearby car dealership delivered food there during Thanksgiving last year. Scott Cowans, a tow-truck driver, has also taken food to the camp. The attack on Johnson made Cowans angry.

“This is something I’m not going to stand for,” he says. “I was homeless once because of heavy drugs.”

Cowans says he plans to organize monthly food deliveries from his church and wants to make sure no one else at the Mitchell Avenue camp is attacked.

“I got hold of my police friends and asked them to check the camp and make sure everybody is OK,” he says.

Cowans says many people tend to look down on homeless people who live outdoors.

“They call them ‘squatters,’ ” he says. “I call them homeless people who need help.”

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or imposes surcharges on people who want to buy fuel efficient or non-efficient vehicles. It allows the consumer to have choice, reinforcing free market economics.

Senators Kerry and Lieberman’s bill does establish national CO2 and other

greenhouse gas standards, along with the mechanism for creating ceiling and price caps for exceeding limits. National standards with regional specifics would have been a far better approach to help small and regional businesses comply with the new standards. This bill supports developing alternative energy sources like natural gas, wind, solar power and the elec-

tric car. Supporting the nuclear industry with all of its high costs, maintenance and lifespan factors would be less prudent.

I personally would have liked for the bill to return a smaller portion of the revenues to consumers and utilize a relatively larger portion for new government grant funding for energy alternatives like natural gas and electric vehicles. Would Spare

Change readers and registered voters like the Washington to provide grants for new and alternative energy sources that would reduce our demand for foreign oil and off shore domestic drilling, while at the same time creating new jobs? Share your thoughts at <http://sparechange-news.net/category/blog/spare-change-community-blog>.



Something Unrecovered

by Richard Wilhelm
(from his book Awakenings)

A dark forest sleeps within me.
I remember dancing in alpine meadows,
drinking the sweet May wine.
Now weeds have grown in the upstairs office,
tigers run loose in the house.
I've struggled to reach the top of the hill,
knowing one must find the right hat.
I know my failure was to not
dirty my hands. Now I'm troubled
at night by serpents. They invade the harbor
of sleep, lure me into murky waters,
toward something unrecovered. In the red-
gold evening, the agony of bones, I come back
to search among leaves and old stones.

Passing By

by Richard Wilhelm
(from his book Awakenings)

I walk past
a mother pushing
her child
in a stroller
on a bright
June morning.
They are sweetly
singing together
"We All Live
In a Yellow Submarine."
Farther up the path,
the sparrows have gathered
in a single bush
and are behaving
riotously.

Spare Change

by Mia Champion

"I love your dress,
I love your hair,
I love everything about you."
clink-clanked from a shaky mouth
and his cup stood still.
I spared a glance and tossed my best smile
to a man who forgot to beg
from a woman who forgot
she had change.

For The Answering Machine

by Peter Aladjem

I'm not at home
As you can see

I could be out on the street
Or climbing a tree

If you want to leave a message
I'll tell you what to do

Wait till all of the rap
Is all the way through.

Rap your own rap
Or play your own tune

And I'll get back to you
On the telephone soon.

Procession

by Richard Wilhelm
(from his book Awakenings)

The sun
is a red ball
in a lavender sky
over the distant city.
I, on a walk on
this soft lemon evening
at the century's end,
encounter a calm
procession of geese
crossing the road
from the side of the field
where a large black crow
like an overseer
is perched high
on a gray tree's
corpse.



Poems may be submitted to: Marc D. Goldfinger,
76 Unity Ave. Belmont MA, 02478

or email: sparechangepoetry@gmail.com. SCN cannot return poetry
submissions, and authors will be contacted only if their poems are published.

Every Thursday
Squawk Coffeehouse, 9 pm
1555 Mass Ave., Cambridge
Open mike for poets and musicians.

Every Saturday
Out of the Blue Gallery, 8 pm
106 Prospect St., Cambridge
\$3-5 suggested donation.
671- 354-5287

Every Sunday
Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam, 7 pm
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
\$5. 671- 547-0759

Every Monday
Out of the Blue Gallery, 8 pm
106 Prospect St., Cambridge
\$4 suggested donation.
617-354-5287


Every Wednesday
Boston Poetry Slam, 8 pm
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave.,
Cambridge
\$3. 21+. 617-354-2685

Second Thursday of Every Month
Tapestry of Voices, 6:30 pm
Borders, 10 School St., Boston
Free. 617-557-7188

Second Tuesday of Every Month
Newton Free Library, 7 pm

330 Homer St. 617-796-1360
Third Saturday of Every Month
Boston Haiku Society meeting,
2-6 pm
Kaji Aso Studio,
40 St. Stephen St., Boston
\$3. 617-247-1719

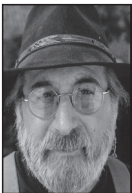
Poetry event listings may be
submitted to
sceditor@homelessempowerment.org



Voices From The Streets

Voices from the Streets - a forum for those whose voices are too often ignored. From narratives to opinion to advice, these writers portray a unique perspective on life that might otherwise go unnoticed. Below, find that turning an ear towards those normally silenced opens the door to understanding and relating to those who have faced life on the street.

War Has All The Money Gone?



Marc D. Goldfinger
Spare Change News

I was watching the news last night and this morning, amazed by all the teacher cuts all over the country. The talking heads were telling us that this is a new era and we'll have to get used to working with less. Also, just recently some Tea Party member was talking about the sucking sound of money disappearing into health care initiatives like Medicare, Medicaid and the new Health Care Bill.

What astounds me is that the sucking sound of money disappearing from our country is because of the ENDLESS WARS. Nobody is talking about the cost, both financially and physically, of Bush's Iraqi debacle and the Afghanistan disaster.

Are we really spending billions of dollars chasing a gang of idiots called Al Qaeda all around the world? As our country's infrastructure declines, as we strip our educational systems, as we blame the poor for taking too many food stamps and too much welfare, the war machine, a hungry beast out of control, is stealing the future of our country.

Just a quick example of our blundering war machine. Since 2002 our country has poured \$6 billion dollars into developing a police force in Afghanistan so they can take over when we leave. It's 2010 and barely one-quarter of the 98,000-member force has received any formal instruction. Fifteen percent of the recruits test positive for drugs and nearly 90% are illiterate. Approximately 170,000 Afghans have been trained but only 30,000 remain on the force—and their competence is questionable.

And this is 6 billion dollars later. How many teachers in the United States could be working for that kind of money?

I'm writing this column on Earth Day. Now this is a day that started, I believe, in 1970, to make people aware of our deteriorating environment. It still exists, but like many good things it has become perverted and is now a corporate holiday.

All the major corporations are screaming GREEN, they have special departments to write text and tell all of us about what they are doing to maintain sustainability, whatever that is. Meanwhile in the boardrooms, other members of the same corporations are planning their next moves to persuade us to buy products, even though these products are part of what is destroying the world.

Why are the Dead Zones in the ocean increasing in size? Why are the ice caps melting and raising our water levels so that islands are being evacuated in order that their populations don't drown. What has caused this past decade to be the hottest on record?

Did you know that, besides the Dead Zones—which are multiple in number and cover areas as large as some of our smallest states—we have giant Plastic Zones in the ocean where non-degradable garbage swirls around and around. These Plastic Zones are the Sargasso Sea for the creatures that try to live in the ocean.

Our world is mostly ocean but this land creature called humanity is changing the face of not only the oceans, but everything on this planet. Right now we are undergoing a mass extinction of species that has only taken place five other times in the history of our planet. One time was when a giant asteroid hit the world and created an almost endless winter in time measured by man.

We are causing this mass extinction. Countless species are being wiped out or are in danger of extinction. In some spots off Washington state and Oregon, hypoxic zones exist in the ocean. Hypoxia means an almost complete lack of oxygen. The carcasses of multiple species of crabs litter the ocean floor in these zones. Twenty-five year old sea stars wash onto the beaches and crippled colonies of sea anemones struggle to live. Mats of potentially poisonous bacteria thrive in hypoxic zones.

The weather is changing. New Orleans still hasn't recovered from Hurricane Katrina. I'll bet some of the money being sucked up by the war machine could help New Orleans. I'll bet some of the money being sucked up by the war machine could help Haiti recover.

We, as a species, have lost our perspective. If only our psychological and emotional maturity could equal our technological maturity. If only.

War not only sucks up our oil, our gas, our people's lives, but it also wreaks havoc on the environment in which it takes place. The companies that make the tools that we use to kill each other are not in financial trouble. They are making more money than ever.

Ironically, many of the weapons that we produce here in the United States wind up in the hands of people we are fighting. How does that make sense?

I can't say it enough. If half of the total money that the war machines suck up went into cleaning our environment, hiring teachers, helping the poor get housing and food, we'd be doing a hell of a lot better than we are doing now.

Nobody is saying it. The price of the war machine should be trumpeted on our national news every night, the actual dollar amount should be stated and the money trail should be followed right to the door of every corporation that makes weapons that kill.

Why is it that we never have enough money

GOLDFINGER continued on page 13

tales from the curb

Outrage and a Little Headscratching



James Shearer
Spare Change News

On the morning of May 12th I was quietly reading the Boston Globe as I do every morning before descending into this hellish madness of everyday life, when I happened upon a headline that I thought was a belated April Fool's joke. "Nine accused of mob attack on disabled teen." As I read on I could feel the rage and bile rising up in my throat.

The incident, which took place in Dorchester, goes like this: eight teens along with a 20 year old grown man jumped, then beat down a teen who is developmentally disabled. The teen's level of disability is severe enough that he had a difficult time explaining to the Boston Police what had happened to him. The story that was told is that these fine upstanding kids—as both youth counselors and their attorneys called them—left this poor kid in the middle of the street, beaten and bloody.

The Boston DA stated, "This is a crime that just shocks the conscience." No sir, it's a little more than that. This is a crime that just compels you to lock these idiots up in a 5x7 room, handcuffed, and with the Joker from Batman (the Heath Ledger version) off his meds and with a baseball bat, and let them feel what it's like to get their ass kicked handicapped.

But I digress. Street level violence is against the law. I really get a kick out of lawyers and youth counselors who defend kids when they engage in this type of behavior. With regards to the good kid statement I talked about earlier: in fact the 20 year old involved in this incident actually worked as a basketball coach at the same exact youth program that the victim attends. The Director of the Dorchester Youth Collaborative told the Globe that the 20 year old was an "excellent employee." Really? And of course their lawyers are saying that the youths are innocent and one may have just been caught up in the police sweep and arrested at random. Sounds like they have as much respect for the victim as their clients did.

Haven't you heard folks? It's always the victim's fault. You really have to wonder what goes on in the mind of a group of punks who would attack a disabled person in broad daylight. Even more, what goes on in the minds of their parents, or those of the so-called youth counselors. Don't they teach simple values like compassion to these kids? Or is their attitude one of "well its OK to beat up on a disabled person, at least they're not shooting people"?

I sometimes think that's what goes through the minds of a few of them. Just get the gun out of their hands and get them playing basketball. Someone (probably me) would see that problem solving technique as closet racism. But seriously, someone needs to stand up and teach these kids and others like them that you don't do stuff like this. Where are they learning their values from, "Family Guy"?

I hate to sound like one of those old get-off-my-lawn guys, but come on. The problems of youth need to be addressed realistically. And not with an "if you build it they will come" attitude. Get them away from in front of the idiot box, put down the video games and teach them some real values. Educate them, teach them that picking on people with disabilities is wrong. As for these nine punks, the new bully law should apply.

James Shearer, *Spare Change News* co-founder, was once a homeless vendor. He currently serves as the Board President.

Trends in the street newspaper industry and the coming of age of Spare Change News

[Editor’s Note]: In the aftermath of Spare Change’s 18th Anniversary Gala, I’ve been reflecting upon the history of our publication, the street newspaper industry generally, and the future of both. What started as pondering the role of Spare Change in the Greater Boston community ended with to consideration of the paper’s role in the national street newspaper scene. I sought the expertise of Andy Freeze, Executive Director of the North American Street Newspaper Association, to satisfy my curiosity.

David: Could you outline any trends you have noticed in the street newspaper movement, either since its beginning or since you have become involved? How do these trends relate to larger societal phenomena?

Andy: The trend I have seen is that interest in street papers continues to grow. People are really interested in helping their neighbors/brothers/sisters and people are looking at street papers as a way to help. From my view of the street paper movement in North America, those papers that produce consistent quality journalism around community topics and work day in and day out to improve the lives of their vendors have the most successful organizations and circulation continues to grow. People are interested in quality journalism around issues of homelessness and poverty; there is a place in each community for a street paper.

D: Why are street papers still relevant in a world of electronic media communication? Aside from the opportunity for empowerment that these organizations provide, why is the street newspaper product viable and competitive?

A: Street papers are still relevant because people care. People care enough about their unhoused neighbors to support those working to improve their lives. Plus there is some really great quality journalism coming out of street papers across North America. Just as people still go to Starbucks to get their coffee even though they could make it home, people are interested in human interaction and the idea that you can educate yourself about an issue and take action at the same time. Therefore, supporting the vendor you bought the paper from is a great selling point.

D: What do you see for the future of the street newspaper movement, especially in relation to changes surrounding homelessness policy (e.g., Housing First)?

A: The future for street newspapers is bright. Each day people contact me about starting a street newspaper in their community. The more people that interact with our vendors and are able to put a face on homelessness, the more advocates we have and the more public support we will have to create the affordable housing and other programs that we know work.



Clockwise from top: ¹HEP Board member Samuel Weems, SCN Editor David Jefferson, veteran Vendor Gregory Dougherty and HEP Board President James Shearer pose for the camera; ²A member of Addi Ouadderrou’s Moroccan folk group; ³Kirk Etherton, singer, songwriter and poet; ⁴Yani Batteau and her traditional bluegrass band; ⁵Kristen Caretta and Michael Morisy bid on auction items; ⁶A man and Vendor Helen John groove to the music.



Fireflies on the Wind: On Leaving Haiti Part III



Jacques Fleury
Spare Change News

Excerpt from my book *“Sparks in the Dark: A Lighter Shade of Blue, A Poetic Memoir”*

Gulp Fiction

As we moved into the early nineteen eighties, my stepfather’s mechanic business in Haiti began to crumble. Up until that point, we were always well provided for. The wife beater was undoubtedly a good provider. My mother did not want to hang around to watch her status crumble, so she started to make plans to travel to a land where life opportunities were more plentiful. She had been traveling back and forth to America anyway, so she decided to attain visas for herself and my stepfather. She asked my biological father to get a visa for me—he had U.S. residency, mercantile status and had been a frequent traveler to the U.S. for business purposes for years. Eventually, all of us were able to get visas. Our next big problem was finding the money to get out of Haiti!

My mother once again used her ingenuity and sold most of her property. She sold her clothes, furniture and jewelry, anything she could stand to part with. Since my stepfather was a mechanic with his own business, he sold his cars to come up with the other half of the money. My biological father did not contribute a dime for traveling expenses. He felt that getting me the visa was more than enough. He already believed that he had done more for me than his father had done for him. And he was adamant not to overextend himself. But he did pay for my private school and a private physician and gave my mom a pittance as allowance for child support. Looking back now, I realized that he did the best he could for me. Private school really gave me the tools and discipline I needed to make Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in U.S. colleges. So thanks Dad. Rest in peace, wherever you are. He died without ever telling me that he loved me. I used to love his playfulness, his charisma and charm and his effortless ways with the ladies. And he passed all that on to me. He was more generous with his genes than he ever was with his money. And that has to be okay, since I am living for today.

So eventually we came to America in the year 1984. The year of Michael Jackson, Tina Turner, Prince, Cindy Lauper and Madonna! We were trying to find a place to colonize. The first U.S. ground we stepped onto when we got off of the American Airlines plane was Florida. We spent less than a month there, then moved on to New York. At that point we had to split up. I was left with my mom’s sister who lived in Brooklyn, and my mom went to Boston to stay with my one of my stepfather’s relatives in order to establish some stability before coming back for me. At this point I was thirteen years old. I was fat and looked like a girl. I looked like a black and chubby Boy George without the long dreadlocks. At one point, I even made the long dreadlocks from a brown cloth to seal the deal. People were constantly asking, “Is that a boy or a girl?” Sometimes I felt like saying, “I was a boy last night when I fucked your

mother motherfucker!” Yet I have never been afraid to express my feminine side, mostly because I grew up with predominantly female influences.

I was confused and angry that my mom left me in Brooklyn with my eccentric aunt Lili. Actually I liked Aunt Lili. She was a powerful, full-bodied gal with a restless heart. Aunt Lili was a very charismatic woman. I didn’t always know why I loved aunt Lili. I guess it was because I was too young to understand her “mystery.” Her sisters would describe her as “carefree.” She had this way of gliding into a crowded room and swooping everyone with her gaiety. People would gather around her as if she were a small town girl who went to Hollywood only to return to her roots to show that she’s done well for herself. She looked and acted like a success story. Even though she sometimes possessed the wild haunted look of a caged exotic animal. When someone expressed a worry to her, she’d laugh and say, “Do I look like the Bible to you? I don’t have all the answers!” And they would often laugh along with her, in awe of her nonchalance, her benevolent detachment.

Aunt Lili was a tall and graceful woman, with a small upper body and large...lower body. Her eyes were a liquid, glossy back color, daring and twinkling with mischief. She could easily resemble an Amazon woman, with long flailing arms and a soaring presence. When she laughed, it was loud and lingering like the echoes of mirth that once emanated from young and foolish girls running in the desert. Her head would tilt back, her mouth gaping as her dilated pupils danced around merrily under the skies. She was 30-something and never really talked about having been an orphan since the age of ten. She never liked to “make a big deal” out of things. She worked as a Nursing Assistant while she attended cosmetology school. I could see her gleefully enchanting her customers with her bright, gregarious demeanor. Her African Queen lips were always perched to speak the truth.

Aunt Lili was built like she grew up on a farm instead of in the city. She had strong and large bones so she carried her weight well. And she was the only one of her four sisters to exercise. Every Saturday morning when we were in Haiti, I woke up to her heavy footsteps galloping up and down the stairs: “thump pada thump pada thump...” Once I watched her beat up her husband in a fistfight. I remember quietly cheering, “Yeah Aunt Lili, kick his bony ass! Kick his mother fucking asssss!” I acted like a derelict referee who incited the conflict instead of intervening. As strong as she was, she still wore long flowery dresses that flowed gently in the wind, softening her appearance. Aunt Lili kept her make up light and simple, like her life. No big deal.

She never felt like she belonged among the drab ordinary life in which she found herself living, with her husband and two kids in a dilapidated walk up apartment in Brooklyn, New York. One time she told me a story about how she gave birth to one to of her kids accidentally, shooting out Dimi unexpectedly while she was laughing gleefully at a joke her doctor had told her. The kids seemed like an impediment to her loose standard of living. She took the kids to their



godmother as much as possible, even if she didn’t have anywhere to go. Once, she took the kids to their godmother and returned to kick back and watch Three’s Company with me. That’s how I learned most of my English, by watching Three’s Company with Aunt Lili. Sometimes I got the feeling, even as a kid, that she wasn’t cut out to be a wife, or mother, but simply a floater. She always seemed like she needed to be somewhere else. She always spoke of being in Hollywood, enjoying the bright lights and glamour of being a famous clothing designer. I’m just sorry that I never got to see the dreamer realize her dreams. We lost her to AIDS in 1987. Even after she died, some of her “mystery” still lingers behind like an echo in the desert of broken hearts. She will always have a spot, somewhere in the V.I.P. section of my heart.

My mother came to get me long before Aunt Lili passed on. My aunt had never even enrolled me in school—my mother thought that leaving me with her irresponsible sister was a recipe for disaster! But when she came to get me, she warned me that she did not live in the best of conditions. She lived in a dingy one-bedroom basement apartment with my highly intoxicated stepfather and she was also pregnant with my sister. So I knew I was about to tread the dangerous territory of mood swingers: a hormonal pregnant woman and an alcoholic beast of a man! I didn’t mind. As long as I was with my mother.

I remember the day I came to Boston. It was bitterly cold and I was particularly ill equipped for the dire weather. The walk from the bus station to the house just about had me in tears. My fingers were numb but my heart was full, thankful that I was re-united with mom. But there was something different about her eyes. They were bulbous, unusually black and blank. The resiliency they once had housed was gone. She looked resigned and forlorn. Little did I know that those eyes were going to set the tone for the tragic and cataclysmic years ahead.

To Be Continued...

Jacques Fleury is a Poet, Author and Columnist; his book *“Sparks in the Dark: A Lighter Shade of Blue, A Poetic Memoir”* about life in Haiti & America was featured in the Boston Globe. Sample or buy the book at: www.lulu.com. 20% of proceeds will go to Haiti charity Partners in Health. For personal appearances or comments, contact Jacques at: haitianfirefly@gmail.com.

The Sweet Smell of Success

Robert L. Karash
Spare Change News

Success is something to savor and be proud of, especially when the outcome is worthwhile. For a number of people formerly living without a home, a family, or life security, there is much success in once again having it all and having it for all the right reasons.

Not everyone ascends out of homelessness and back into their own life again. That’s a fact. Many, if not most people don’t escape from such a situation, and for a variety of reasons. Furthermore, some ascend out of homelessness only to later fall back into it. But for those who do get out of the vicious cycle and keep their new life, a celebration of their story is well deserved.

To go through a life recovery process—fill out housing papers, get a job, an income, make new friends, open bank accounts, deposit money, file tax returns, and finally get a place of one’s own—for these people who have transcended dire circumstances, life is now sweet.

It’s a delicate experience, getting back on one’s own feet again. One walks on pins-and-needles and feels giddy. It seems impossible. But it’s real this time.

The new or rediscovered things, although little and incidental by most standards, are startling to the winners. For example, not having to carry all your life’s belongings in a big backpack all day like a mule, being able to go home anytime you want, being able to fill out a form with your own home address and not that of a shelter, having a key, especially a home key, after years of not having a key to anything except maybe a tiny locker in a shelter, and so much more.

A big moment is realizing that you now have a private mailbox after years of having someone give you your mail from behind a desk or in an open pigeon hole in the wall at the shelter.

You can cook whatever you want in your own kitchen, and not just what’s served that day. You can prepare it at any time, not at a prescribed hour. You can buy your own groceries. And you aren’t given ten minutes to eat. You can take your time.

You can shower at leisure and

there’s a door to the bathroom. And it’s private. That’s a big improvement.

And no more shelter cots. You now have a comfortable bed to sleep in and you can sleep as long as you want. No more bugle and wake-up calls at 6am and announcements to get out of the shelter by 7.

In fact, you can now even have some people over to watch the baseball game or just for dinner. But you do have to be careful about who you invite over.

Let’s look at a few stories.

Jim, who was neither a drinker nor a drug user, was simply homeless by circumstance. He had been a career Marine and had served his country well. But he wound up in a homeless shelter, immediately determined to get out of it. He got into a transitional housing program and waited a while, finally getting his own place. He’s had it for almost twenty years and has never had a problem. From time to time he’s had to go to a food bank to make ends meet, but he’s a satisfied man. When he was in transitional housing, he saved all his money for use when he got his permanent place.

Janice, who drank and used drugs, and who had relapsed a number of times over the years, did the wrong thing and lost her home. But she finally got a grip, saw the light, and turned her life around. With little income, she was in a transitional housing program where she finally got a subsidized apartment in a nice town. She’s been there in her own home for a few years, and despite every once in a while getting stressed and feeling like picking up a drink—an urge to which she doesn’t succumb—life is sweet. She likes her comfortable new bed, especially compared to the cracked and stiff plastic mattresses she had to sleep on for years in shelters.

Jack, who was entirely estranged from his family, and who had been in jail and used drugs before he was able to get a grip, moved from a shelter into an outside congregate housing sober residence. He chose this path rather than living totally on his own, which he says he will do again someday when he feels stronger. He’s working again now and enjoys it. Living with other people isn’t so bad, and he finds it supportive to keep himself in check to do the right

thing. He’s saving some money for his future, something he really hasn’t thought about in years.

Moe, who had been homeless for years, was lucky enough to be picked up in a public park by a street outreach team that was able to hook him up with a local housing authority. The agency moved him into a permanent apartment in a nice public housing project. Moe says he couldn’t have broken the vicious circle by himself, and that he was lucky the street outreach team came up to him. He had stayed away from shelters except to sometimes get a meal. He lived outside. No one was tracking him and he was off the radar. It was almost like divine intervention. Now, for years he’s managed, with some help from social services and faith-based organizations, to stay in his own apartment.

The French writer Voltaire once symbolically wrote that we must cultivate our own garden in which to flourish. That’s the message, really. If someone can do positive things to get his life back and keep his life above water, then once he gets the necessary break he’s lucky because he knows it’s an opportunity that comes but rarely. And he will succeed, with strength, determination, and the moral support of others.

So we applaud the people who have risen like the mythical phoenix bird out of its own ashes and taken their lives back again. May it happen like this for more and more people.

We also pray and have hope for those who have not yet made it out of the homeless conundrum or who are otherwise lost in their lives and seeking a good port in a terrible storm. May they see the light and get a break. And may the storm clear forever.

Finally, we mourn for and remember those unfortunate people who didn’t make it out of homelessness, who died under a bridge or on a street or in a cardboard box, alone, sick and unable to have found the light. Their struggle, strength, torture and message has not been lost—in some instances they have inspired changes in social policy. Meanwhile, we celebrate the successes.

Byrnesie's Tips in Tough Times

Advice to help individuals and businesses succeed

Michael W. Byrnes, Jr.
Spare Change News

Not using LinkedIn? You should be!

Here are ten powerful things you can do through LinkedIn to be more successful:

1. Expand your network. Even if you have a good network, you do not get to see all of the people your contacts have in their networks, unless you have a tool like LinkedIn. For example, I have about 500 first-degree professional connections, and through LinkedIn I have over 50,000 second-degree connections.

2. Stay connected.

Have you ever been frustrated that you lost touch with an old friend or colleague? If individuals are in your LinkedIn network, that is no longer a problem. Individuals are most likely update their current employment status and email address when they have changes, automatically keeping their network in the loop, so you will not lose touch.



3. Spend nothing. Besides the time it takes to create and maintain your network and profile page, the basic package is free.

4. Stay informed. By reading your weekly email summary that contains updates from your network, you will be abreast of job changers, career news, etc. within your own network.

5. Brand yourself. LinkedIn is an extension of each person, even more than a traditional resume. For example, Google "Michael Byrnes". My LinkedIn profile pops up in the top 10 search results, not my resume.

6. Research individuals. Before every interview or business meeting, know who you are speaking to by researching the person's public profile. Learn their career history and who in your network might be connected to the individual.

7. Generate traffic. LinkedIn is a powerful social media tool that can help you get more exposure, driving new and repeat visitors to your website.

8. Share your opinions. There is no arguing that the modern day soap box to have your message heard is the internet, and LinkedIn is a terrific tool to use for business-related topics.

9. Learn the latest news and insights. LinkedIn's online communities share information on industries, specific topics, etc. Plus, you are much more likely to quickly find current information there compared to checking out a book from the library that is probably already out-dated.

10. Open doors. Through online networking, groups and discussions, one can make connections (and even find jobs) that ultimately will help individuals and businesses become more successful.

65,000,000 people are using LinkedIn. Don't miss out on its benefits!

Do you have reasons why you think LinkedIn is powerful? If so, please share them at www.sparechangenews.net by clicking Multimedia and then Blog in the drop-down menu.

Michael W. Byrnes, Jr. is the President of Byrnes Consulting, LLC (www.byrnesconsulting.com) in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

Newspapers Past, Present and Future

Gary Gilreath
Spare Change News
Badge #7043

I, the writer, would like to take the opportunity to thank all who read my first ever article, which was published in the February 25, 2010 issue of Spare Change News. Your responses to my question of whether to stay or go were quite supportive. So I would like to take this time to let you all know that I have decided to remain a member of the Spare Change family.

A famous person once told me that you are only as good as your last article. From this thought, I spent many hours brainstorming my next story. I found myself in Central Square, Cambridge, asking people whether there was a subject they wanted to read about. And lo and behold it hit me—as a matter of fact it is in front of you right now.

The topic is newspapers, the idea of bringing the reader the news. The how and when of distributing the news to the public. I personally feel that newspapers have taken a wrong turn at Albuquerque. I want to put this thought under the microscope of public scrutiny. To begin with, the freedom of speech is guaranteed to us by the Constitution. I feel this is slowly being taken away from the public and we don't even know it. We the writers act as truth to our source. This is to be protected first and foremost. Many of writers in the past were placed in contempt by the courts for protecting their sources.

The news of today is distributed to the general public to be completely read in thirty seconds. This is felt to be our attention span on many things. Now, with the help of computers and the internet, to read a novel is so yesterday. In the newspaper world, the thought of ink in the writers' blood has almost gone out the door. This writer will attempt to show you how the news you so value today is condensed and distorted so as to be read in as little time as possible. That even today your evening news reporters on television are worried about their jobs. With new technology bringing the news to America's households, why watch television?

To look at news of the past and how it was brought to the public, I sought out a newspaper man with the history to help us understand the newspapers of the past and how they are molded today. I encountered a man who is well known by the public. The man I was introduced to was Donald Wysocki. He

has fifty years in the paper business, and he worked the majority of this time with the Boston Globe. This man has met or written about many people who molded the great state of Massachusetts. He also has a reputation of knowing where the bodies are kept, so to speak. When Wysocki started out, there were seventeen papers in Boston alone. The Boston Globe, American Record, etc., etc. He remembers a section of Boston called Newspaper Row.

If you ever walk down Washington Street by Washington and Milk, look up at the buildings. They still carry the names of former papers. Go further down to Washington and State. This is Newspaper Row. It has been told that if you stood at this corner, you could feel the ground vibrate. You didn't know if it was the subway or the newspaper presses.

When speaking to Mr. Wysocki, I hear a tale of a time when the paper was sold twice a day, in morning and evening editions. There were days when people lined up for blocks for the papers, to read articles by famed writers such as "Irishman Dave Egan". This gentleman wrote exquisitely, but he would put people through the wringer. Doctors, lawyers and judges were all subject to his wrath.

This was the time when many papers failed. Advertising dollars were the lead topic of the day, not the news. These dollars either controlled the paper or destroyed it. I put this question to Mr. Wysocki—who controlled the papers of that time? He spoke of identity, and asserted that a printer must give this to his readers and to the paper. We both agreed that for any business to succeed, it must identify with its audience.

To recap, we have learned about the growth of newspapers. There was a time when newspapers ran two editions daily. Readers lined up for blocks to read articles written by well-known reporters. As time went by, newspapers grew so fast that they ended up closing. And now this brings us to today, with computers, the internet, and new technology.

Today with the general public having an attention span of only thirty seconds, there is no need for writers to identify with their audience. Daily papers today are smaller, and internet news is only a few paragraphs. In speaking with Mr. Wysocki, we decide that the only reason the public buys the paper is because it is a habit. It is like we don't care what we read.

To take a look at the future, I once
Gilreath continued on page 13

Addressing Youth Homelessness

Ukeme Esiet
Spare Change News

My first real encounter with young people affected by homelessness occurred in the month of August last year. Before this experience, homelessness was an issue that I observed at a distance. I had only had one meaningful conversation with a person affected by homelessness, but I did not truly appreciate the impact it had on people's lives.

I had recently started a part-time graduate internship at a nonprofit near Government Center, but I wanted to be more involved in local community service. One of my mentors from Assumption College introduced me to Bridge Over Troubled Waters, a nonprofit that enables high-risk, runaway and homeless youth become healthy and productive adults. After meeting with some of Bridge's staff, I signed up to volunteer with the Transitional Day Program, supporting the work of counselors and case managers who helped the young men and women get back on their feet.

My Volunteer Experience

It was during my weekly volunteer hours at Bridge when I began to understand some of the challenges that homeless youth have to overcome on a daily basis. They must adapt to the system of shelters, soup kitchens, work programs, and clinics in their journey to being housed and independent.

During my conversations with some of the clients in the program, they shared some of the additional burdens they faced with being homeless. One client told me that he had developed insomnia, and spent many sleepless nights walking around the city. Another young man discussed his experience with the judicial system, having to balance his meetings with his probation officer with his other obligations such as looking for work and housing.

Volunteering at Bridge was not always easy. The toughest challenge I faced was dealing with the emotional drain from working with some clients. There were times when heated arguments broke out, or when some clients were dealing with really difficult circumstances and I found myself unable to help. Sometimes I got so sensitive to the foul language that some clients used that I would try to cope by listening to music or reading a book.

In those moments, I really began to

appreciate the dedication and tenacity of the case managers and counselors who could immerse themselves in each client's problems and have enough in their reserves to deal with multiple clients and an inexperienced volunteer.

There were high points as well. When clients had a successful interview or made substantial progress, it validated the effort that Bridge had invested in those young men and women. One of my happiest days was when I met one of the clients in the city after a successful job interview. Having been able to witness his progress made it all worthwhile.

I also had a great conversation with a young man who wanted to take the best lessons he had learned from being homeless and share them with younger kids. He envisioned having camping sessions like Outward Bound, where kids could learn those lessons and avoid unhealthy situations.

I stopped volunteering at Bridge to focus on the GRE and graduate school applications, but the issue of youth homelessness was never far from my mind. When one of the programs I applied to asked me to propose solutions to a public policy or public management problem, I had already started working on my response. During my time volunteering at Bridge, I began reading Spare Change News and I knew it would be a great place to start looking for information. Bridge's director also suggested that I also get information from the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH).

The Challenge of Youth Homelessness According to data provided by the NAEH, 5 to 7.7 percent of youth in the United States deal with homelessness each year. The percentages are even higher in major metropolitan areas like Boston and New York. NAEH argues that these figures are a reflection of family breakdown in addition to the factors that lead to adult homelessness such as a lack of affordable housing and substance abuse. NAEH also asserts that the figures reflect the problems with foster care and juvenile correction systems that lack adequate support systems and create barriers to work and housing.

Some of the claims made by NAEH were corroborated by my volunteer experience at Bridge. The government systems that many homeless young men and women deal with do not always provide the support that they need, which creates a greater risk of being



over dependent on shelters, soup kitchens and emergency services.

Possible Strategies to Address the Problem

I think that to solve this challenge the government needs to create comprehensive solutions that address the different aspects of homelessness more intentionally. Increasing services such as youth and family counseling, educational programs, and affordable housing for struggling families could possibly go a long way in reducing the number of youth who end up homeless as a result of unfavorable family circumstances.

Another possible solution could be to support the work of nonprofits that want to address the problem of youth homelessness. Bridge Over Troubled Waters and Homeless Empowerment Project are two examples of such organizations working to empower the homeless community. HEP's work goes so far as to educate the rest of society while providing homeless men and women with employment opportunities and helpful resources. Organizations such as Youth Build USA, YMCA, YWCA and 4H Council help to empower young people to take control of their futures as well. And they need the government's support to remain effective.

Yet another solution would be to streamline the processes that homeless youth have to go through in order to access services that already exist. I have witnessed the difficulties that young men and women have to overcome in order to access needed services, and the additional barriers created by obscure forms and requirements. Improving these processes will be effective in ensuring that these young men and

women don't fall through the cracks into larger problems such as addiction and destitution.

Lastly, we all need to enable our local communities to address the problem. We can take advantage of social networking platforms like Facebook, Ning and Twitter and social action sites like Idealist, Care2, and Serve.gov to connect with other people who want to make a difference around issues such as housing, hunger prevention, and local farming. Freecycle.org affiliates can be used to source secondhand furniture and clothing.

We Can All Make a Difference If you are reading this article, you have already taken the first step down the path to addressing youth and adult homelessness. I think we all can get more people off the sidelines to do what they can, from sharing their time and resources to demanding that the government do more to address the problem of homelessness.

To learn more about Bridge Over Troubled Waters, please visit www.bridgeotw.org. For more information about youth and adult homelessness please visit www.endhomelessness.org.

Ukeme Esiet is a 2009 graduate of Assumption College, Worcester, MA. He recently completed an internship at Second Nature, Inc and plans to pursue a career in sustainable development. He also tweets about sustainability and social change at twitter.com/esietukeme.

Situations Wanted

This classified section is designed to offer advertising space to our vendors and readers. Its purpose is to better enable persons with limited resources to make connections that will facilitate their rise from poverty. Additionally, Situations Wanted is intended to unify the Spare Change community, linking vendors and readers to create new possibilities. Our advertising vendors are listed by first name and the spot(s) in which they typically sell. Unless otherwise stated, please contact the Spare Change office at (617) 497-1595.

JOBS

Fred
Experience
6 years janitorial; various day labor positions (e.g., catering, loading, stocking, dish washing, retail)
Seeking
Janitorial, stockroom, inventory, retail
Contact: 857-241-9444

Robyn (Back Bay)
Seeking
Spare Change vendor and writer looking for work in office or retail environment.
Experience
14 years of nursing home experience, scheduling, evaluations, ordering and stocking, customer service
Please contact Robyn at 781-475-8287

Luis (Gov. Ctr.)
Experience
Carpentry, plumbing, painting, stockroom, mailroom, shipping / receiving
Seeking
Stockroom, inventory, retail
Contact: big_thug5@yahoo.com

Kevin
(Central Sq.; Community College)
Experience
17 years in building maintenance; electrical,plumbing, cleaning; much experience in bringing buildings up to section 8 code
Seeking
Caretaking, maintenance in any of above areas; offering reliable, dependable and neat service 24 / 7; free estimates; full resume and references available upon request.
Contact: lilhoss08@yahoo.com
(781)219-7486

Robert
(SCN staff writer and vendor)
Experience
Customer service, sales, writing, food service (email for professional resume)
Seeking
Cooking, teaching cooking, nutrition, teaching computers (MS Word, resume design, or Internet), nutrition sales, office work, warehouse work, market research
Contact bosonma@yahoo.com

Ed (Longwood Medical; North Sta.; State St.)
Experience
7 years as a Spare Change vendor; familiar with dogs and other pets; friendly and reliable
Seeking
Dogwalking; can be available for a flexible schedule and hours; would like to earn \$10 / hour

HOUSING

Mattawen
Seeking
Healthy home cookery + dishwashing + \$350.00 in exchange for room in Boston area apt. (Cambridge preferred) ASAP.
CONTACT
Mattawen at cell: 857.334.5007
email: Gattawikwamtet@yahoo.com.
Kewam (Thanks).

Anthony (Porter Sq.)
Seeking
1 BR apartment
Location
Cambridge or off of red or orange lines
Price
Up to \$1362 (section 8 voucher)
Contact: 857-312-8371

Walter (State Street)
Seeking
2 BR or larger apartment
Location
Cambridge or off of red line
Price
\$750-850 / mo.
Contact: 617-304-0343 (Walter) or 857-334-4317 (Susan)

ADVERTISERS

Norman (North Station) & **Reggie** (Copley Sq.)
Contracting SCN Advertisers for either Situations Wanted classified page, or for 1 / 8, 1 / 4, 1 / 2 or full page ads, in either black and white or color.

MISCELLANIOUS

Robert (SCN staff writer and vendor)
Seeking
Laptop computer (Windows or Mac); flash drive

Anthony (Porter Sq.)
Seeking
Furniture, a TV, DVD player, plates, bowls and utensils, etc.
Notes
Recently received a section 8 voucher and would appreciate any assistance
Contact: semaht2007@aol.com or 857-312-8371

Jim (Back Bay)
Seeking
Laptop computer (Windows or Mac)

FOR SALE

Robyn (Back Bay)
Selling
HP 1310 series all-in-one copier, scanner, and printer.
Description
Approximately 3 years old; works well.
Paid \$250, asking \$60

SPARE CHANGE IS SEEKING

Success Stories
Spare Change wants to hear, and to spread the word about your successes. If you’ve made it out of adverse situations such as homelessness, unemployment, or other quandries, come to us to tell your story. We’re especially interested in publishing details that could help others to overcome similar experiences of adversity. To tell your story, contact sparechangeeditor@gmail.com

Advertisers for Situations Wanted
If you’d like a job, an apartment, or to buy or sell miscellaneous items, post an ad in Situations Wanted. For rates, contact sparechangeeditor@gmail.com.

GOLDFINGER *from previous page 7*

for medical care but we always have enough money to blow people, places and things to unholy hell? Maybe if the money eaten by the war machine that eats us were used to combat global warming, we would have a better chance of surviving. Just think of every war apparatus that emits toxicity: those giant aircraft carriers, those creepy looking bombers that explode across the sky, shattering the ear drums of the people who are being blown to shreds. Noise pollution, air pollution, water pollution, earth pollution, mind pollution—just to name a few.

Let’s hire more teachers and kill less people. Let’s have health care for everyone using the billions of dollars we now use to destroy life. If we put the money from the war machine into better alternatives like schools, hospitals, the space program, we’d have enough teachers, everyone would have the best of health care like our politicians do, and we’d probably have reached the planet Mars a long time ago.

God knows we have the resources. Now all we have to do is get resourceful and point the finger to the real problem—The War Machine. Wake up humanity or go to sleep forever!!

Marc D. Goldfinger *is a formerly homeless vendor who is now housed. He can be reached*

Gilreath *from previous page 11*

again put questions to Mr. Wysocki. He tells me that in order for something to recover it must first be destroyed. When we speak of newspapers, the damage is already done. And now the damage is being done to the general public.


Mr. Wysocki also spoke of the Wall Street Journal’s model in the modern newspaper era. Today you must pay to read the Wall Street Journal online. Other papers do not charge to be read on the internet. Also, the Wall Street Journal recently started a daily paper for New York. This paper I feel will identify with its readers.


In this modern media age, advertising is still crucial. For example, if you run an ad in the New York Times, the cost is around ninety thousand dollars. To advertise in the Wall Street Journal, the price is around nineteen thousand. The different models that these papers provide mean that the recipe for the greatest success in the future is uncertain.


In a time when the general public is working on identity, newspapers must repair themselves too. In Spare Change at least, we the writers will continue to try to identify with our readers.

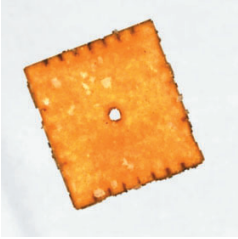
Cookies, Crackers and Cakes


Identify these iconic morsels of comfort.


1


2


3


4

5

6

7

8

9

Sudoku

1		9		2		8	6	
2			9			1		
				5	1			3
				8		4	7	
	7	1				5	2	
	4			9				
7			5	6				
5		4			9			2
		6		3	2	7		5

Word Play

In each empty box, draw a letter so the same four words are viewed when read both across and down.

F	O	U	R
O			
U			
R			

Solutions to previous issues' puzzles

7	1	2	9	4	5	3	8	6
5	9	8	3	6	1	4	7	2
6	3	4	8	7	2	5	1	9
1	2	6	5	9	7	8	3	4
4	5	9	6	8	3	1	2	7
3	4	7	1	2	4	9	6	5
2	8	3	7	5	9	6	4	1
4	6	5	2	1	8	7	9	3
9	7	1	4	3	6	2	5	8

Mothers, One and All

- A** Mother Nature

B Mother Teresa

C Mother of Pearl

D Mother of Exiles

E Mother Russia

F Mothers of Invention

G Mother Courage

H Mother Jones
- I** Mother Church in Boston

J Mother Hubbard

K Mother Earth

L Mother of Presidents

M Motherboard

N Mother Road

O Mother Goose

P Mother's Finest

Helping Hands

Cambridge and Boston are teeming with organizations ready to provide food and services to the homeless and the needy. If you’re in need, they’re there for you. If you can volunteer or donate, most of them could use your help.

Food

DAILY MEALS:

Pine Street Inn
444 Harrison Ave., Boston, 617-482-4944
Breakfast: 6 a.m.; brown bag lunches during the day;
Dinner: 5 p.m.; Chicken truck: 11:30 a.m.
Rosie’s Place (women & children only, no boys over age 11)
889 Harrison Ave., Boston, 617-442-9322
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Dinner: 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
St. Francis House
39 Boylston St., Boston, 617-542-4211
Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.; Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Emergency sandwiches: Weekdays 2:45 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Salvation Army 402 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-547-3400
Lunch: 12 p.m.
Women’s Lunch Place (women & children only, no boys over age 14, male presence discouraged)
67 Newbury St., Boston., 617-267-0200
Open Mon. – Sat., 7 a.m. – 2p.m.
www.womenslunchplace.org

WEEKLY MEALS

Monday:

Church of the Holy Resurrection
64 Harvard Ave.,Allston, 617-787-7625
6 p.m. – 7 p.m. and take-out.
Mass. Ave. Baptist Church
146 Hampshire St., Cambridge, 617-868-4853
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday:

Church of the Advent
30 Brimmer St., Boston, 617-523-2377 6 p.m.
First Parish Unitarian Church
3 Church St., Cambridge, 617-876-7772
6 p.m. – 7 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
Faith Kitchen, Faith Lutheran Church
311 Broadway, Cambridge, 617-354-0414
6:30 p.m. (second & last Tuesday of every month)

Wednesday:

Salvation Army 402 Mass. Ave., Cambridge,
617-547-3400 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursday:

Christ Church, Zero Garden St. Cambridge,
617-876-0200 6 p.m. *St. James Church*
1991 Mass. Ave, Cambridge
The Women’s Meal (Women and children welcome)
5 p.m. – 7 p.m. (food pantry 3 days/week)
Union Baptist Church
874 Main St., Cambridge, 617-864-6885. 5 p.m.

Friday:

Arlington St. Church
351 Boylston St., Boston, 617-536-7050 5 p.m.
Food Not Bombs
Boston Common (near Park St. T station), 617-522-8277
3 p.m. -- 5 p.m.
Mass. Ave. Baptist Church
146 Hampshire St., Cambridge, 617-868-4853
6 p.m. -- 7:30 p.m.

Saturday:

Pilgrim Church 540 Columbia Rd, Dorchester
approx 8:45 (*Boston Commons (near fountain)*)
We serve soup, pasta, coffee, juice, pastries, sandwiches,
and clothing once a month.
12-1:30 pm
We offer a free community lunch, it is a cafe style, and we
serve the guests, no standing in line. The meals are hot and
made with love by our very talented chef

Sunday:

Food Not Bombs
955 Mass Ave
(617) 787-3436
Central Square cambridge on sundays from 3-5pm.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Greater Boston Food Bank, 617-427-5200
Serves non-profit organizations such as
agencies, shelters, etc.
Office hours: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Project Bread
617-723-5000; Hotline 1-800-645-8333
Referrals to food pantries throughout the city
Somerville Food Pantry
617-776-7687
Food pantry: Mon, Tue, Fri 10 a.m. -- 2 p.m.; Wed 12 p.m.
-- 4 p.m.; Thu 1 p.m. -- 4 p.m.
Somerville residents only. Those unable to use other pan-
tries due to disability may call and ask for the Project Soup
Delivery Coordinator.

Brookline Food Pantry
15 St. Paul St., Brookline, 617-566-4953
Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. -- 2 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m. -- 4 p.m.
Brookline residents only. Second-time visitors must present
a letter from an advocate confirming that they are in need
of food services.
CEOC (Cambridge Economic Opportunity Commission)
11 Inman St. (basement), Cambridge, 617-868-2900
Food pantry: Mon, Wed 4 p.m. -- 6 p.m.; Tue 12 p.m. -- 2
p.m.; Thu 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Closed Fri.
East End House
105 Spring St., Cambridge, 617-876-4444
Food pantry: Tue 9 a.m. -- 2 p.m.; Fri 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Offers assistance in filling out food stamp applications (call
for appointment).
Margaret Fuffer Houses
71 Cherry St., Cambridge, 617-547-4680
Food pantry: Wed. 5 p.m. -- 7 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m. -- 12 p.m.
& 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.; Fri & Sat 9 a.m. -- 12 p.m.

Pentecostal Tabernacle Church
617-661-0222
Food pantry by appointment only; no deliveries or walk-
ins; referrals to other food pantries
Salvation Army
402 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 617-547-3400
Cambridge and Somerville residents only.
Food pantry: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. & by appointment
St. Francis House
39 Boylston St., Boston, 617-542-4211
Food pantry: Mon. – Fri. 10 a.m. -- 11 a.m.
Sign up at the Counseling Desk in the St. Francis House
Day Center
St. James Church
1191 Mass. Ave, Cambridge
Food pantry: Tues. 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.; Thurs. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.;
Sat. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
St. Paul’s Ame Church
85 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, 617-661-1110
Food pantry: Wed. 12 p.m. -- 2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Western Ave. Baptist Church
299 Western Ave.,Cambridge, 617-661-0433
Food pantry: Every second Wed., 10 a.m.
Zinberg Clinic Pantry at Cambridge Hospital 617-665-1606
For clinic patients with HIV / AIDS only.
Food pantry: Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. -- 5 p.m.

Fair Foods \$2 a bag;
CAMBRIDGE, St. Paul’s Church
29 Mt. Auburn St
Harvard Sq. Red Line
Saturdays 10-11
SOMERVILLE, Cobble Hill Apts
84 Washington St.
Back parking lot
(near Sullivan Sq.)
Every other Wed. 11:30-1
Mt. Pleasant Apts. 70 Perkins St. (off Broadway)
Every other Wed. 1:30 - 2:30

Homeless Concerns

The Women’s Center
46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, 617-354-8807
Computers, kitchen, space, children’s room, and more.
Walk-ins welcome.

Women & children only (no boys over age 12)
Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am-3pm.

Cambridge Multi-Service Center
19 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-349-6340
City-run agency with additional community non-profit
partners. Works with Cambridge families in shelters,
provides shelter referrals and other housing assistance.
Employs housing specialists for elderly and disabled.
Office hours: Mon. 8:30 a.m. -- 8 p.m.; Tue., Wed., Thu. 8:30
a.m. -- 5 p.m.; Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Walk-ins accepted.
Cardinal Medeiros Center
25 Isabella St., Boston, 617-619-6960
Day center for homeless adults (50 years & older); mental
health & nursing staff; help with housing searches.
Lunch served at 11:45 a.m.
Office hours: Mon. - Thu. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Caspar
240 Albany St., Cambridge, 617-661-0600
Open 24 hrs / day; emergency shelter open 4:30 p.m. -- 8
a.m.; Clients who leave in the morning may not return
until 3 p.m.; Clients staying multiple nights must prove
recent local residency.

CLASP (Community Legal Assistance Services Project)
19 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-552-0623
Free legal clinic for Cambridge homeless at the Multi-
Service Center every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.
Ecclesia Ministries
67 Newbury Street, Boston., 617-552-0623
Weekly Schedule for the Common Cathedral:
Sunday
- Worship at Brewer’s Fountain on Boston Common, 1 pm
- Gospel Reflection at St. Paul’s Cathedral, 138 Tremont St.,
2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Monday
- Lunch at Sproat Hall (St. Paul’s Cathedral) 11:30 a.m. --1 p.m.
- Eucharist & Healing (St. Paul’s Cathedral) 1 p.m.
- Common Fellowship in Sproat Hall (St. Paul’s Cathedral)
2 p.m. –3 p.m.
Wednesday
- Common Art at the Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury
Street, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Friday
- Common Cinema in Sproat Hall (St. Paul’s Cathedral)
2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Horizons for Homeless Children
617-445-1480; www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org
Horizons for Homeless Children is seeking volunteers to
interact and play with children living in family, teen parent,
and domestic violence shelters in Greater Boston. We offer
daytime and evening shifts, so there is likely to be one that
fits your schedule. A commitment of 2 hours a week for 6
months is required. The next training session will be Sat.,
Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Medical Walk-in Unit at Mass General Hospital
617-726-2707

Provides minor medical care for adults. Patients are seen in
order of arrival. MGH accepts most insurances but requires
copayments.
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat., Sun., Holidays 9:30
a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving & Christmas
Rosie’s Place
889 Harrison Ave., Boston, 617-442-9322
Women and children only (no boys over age 11)
Open 7 days a week; provides help with housing, medical
care, job training, financial aid and education, legal servic-
es, rape crisis counselors, health specialists, and more.

St. Francis House
39 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-542-4211
Meals offered 365 days / yr.; food pantry open weekdays.
Offers a mailroom, open art studio, clothing lottery, com-
puter library, support groups such as AA, showers, tele-
phones, toothbrushes & razors, medical clinic, counseling
& mental health services, housing counseling & stabliza-
tion services, & a women’s center.
For more details on these services and for their specific
times visit www.stfrancishouse.org
Starlight Ministries. 617-262-4567
Outreach van with food, clothing, blankets and worship
Hours: Wed. 8 p.m. by Park Street T station on the Boston Common.

Streetlight Outreach
Wednesdays at 8:00 PM
Harvard T-Station (The Pit); Porter Square T-Station
olunteers work weekly to serve the homeless who live in
Harvard and Porter Squares. Volunteer teams give away
warm food and beverages, clothing and counsel to those in
need. Streetlight volunteers also lead an outdoor worship
service for the entire community.

The Women’s Center
46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, 617-354-8807
Computers, kitchen and rooms. Walk-ins welcome.
Women & children only (no boys over age 16).
Hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-- 8 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. -- 3 p.m.

On The Rise
341 Broadway, Cambridge, 617-497-7968
Women only. Home-base during the day and advocacy ser-
vices. Open six days / week. First-time visitors, call ahead
or stop by Mon-Sat, 8-2pm.

The Outdoor Church of Cambridge
The Outdoor Church of Cambridge is an outdoor ministry
to homeless men and women in Cambridge. Prayer ser-
vices and pastoral assistance outdoors in all seasons and
all weather. Short prayer services in Porter Square, under
the mobile sculpture near the T station, at 9:00 AM and on
the Cambridge Common, near the tall Civil War monu-
ment and directly across from Christ Church Cambridge
on Garden Street, at 1:00 PM every Sunday, throughout
the year. Sandwiches, pastry, juice and clean white socks
available in Harvard Square and Central Square. (978)456-
0047, 39 Brown Road, Harvard, Massachusetts 01451
jedmannis@charter.net; www.theoutdoorchurch.net

Victory Programs, Inc.
www.vpi.org. Short and long-term residential substance use
disorder treatment programs for individuals and families;
affordable housing opportunities for eligible individuals;
HIV / AIDS case management. Sites throughout Boston
Please call for more information. (617) 541-0222 ext. 626

Legal Aid:
Lawyers Clearinghouse, 617-723-0885
Shelter Legal Services (Newton), 617-965-0449

The Homeless Eyecare Network of Boston (HEN-Boston)
is a nonprofit organization dedicated to maintaining a con-
stantly undated network of affordable and free eyecare ser-
vices for the homeless. If you need an eye exam or glasses,
please visit our website, www.hen-boston.org.

Subscribe to Spare Change News

For \$60 a year you can educate yourself or a friend about the realities of homelessness.

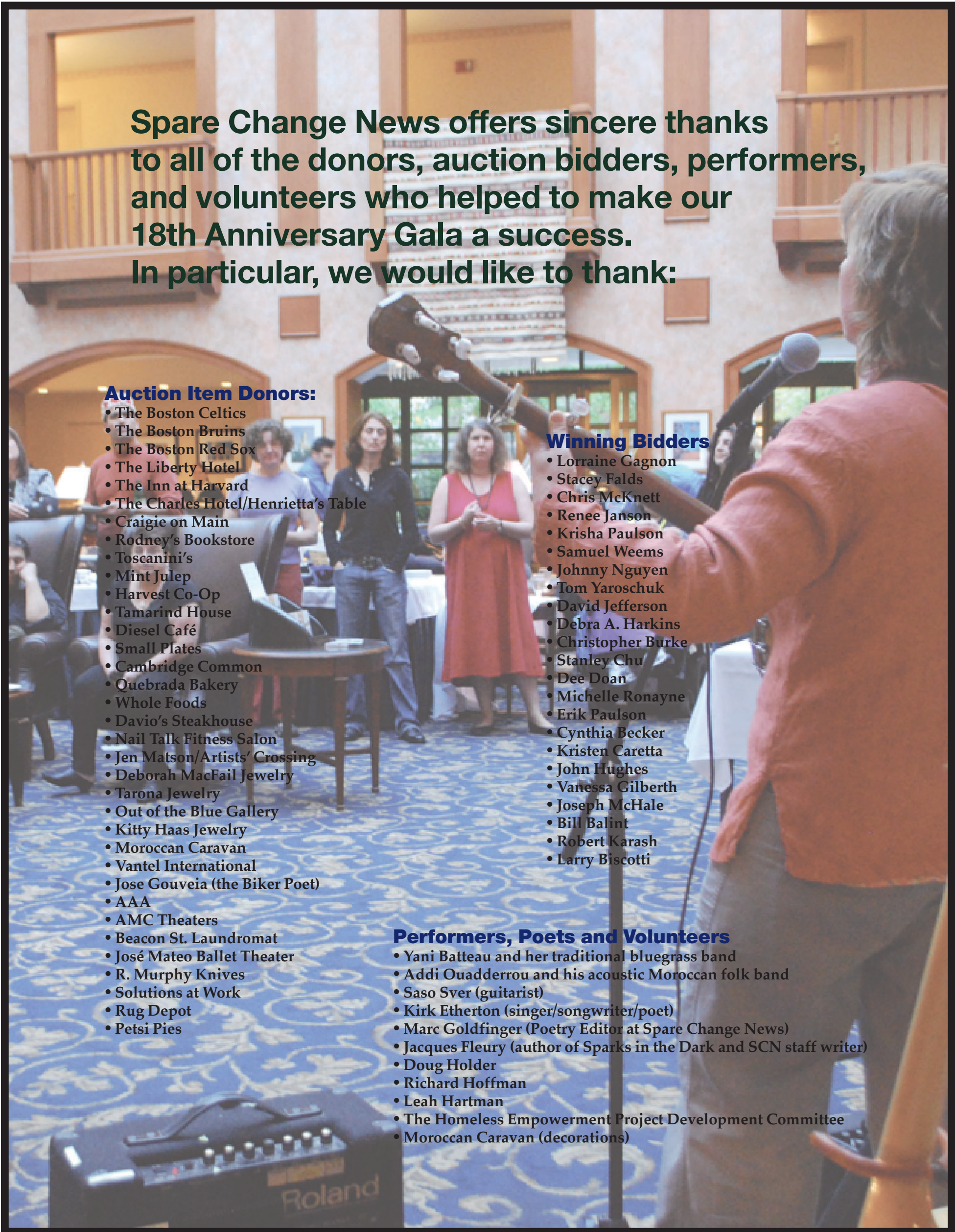
Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ My check or money order for \$60 made payable to Spare Change News is enclosed.

Mail to: Spare Change News1151 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138



**Spare Change News offers sincere thanks
to all of the donors, auction bidders, performers,
and volunteers who helped to make our
18th Anniversary Gala a success.
In particular, we would like to thank:**

Auction Item Donors:

- The Boston Celtics
- The Boston Bruins
- The Boston Red Sox
- The Liberty Hotel
- The Inn at Harvard
- The Charles Hotel/Henrietta's Table
- Craigie on Main
- Rodney's Bookstore
- Toscanini's
- Mint Julep
- Harvest Co-Op
- Tamarind House
- Diesel Café
- Small Plates
- Cambridge Common
- Quebrada Bakery
- Whole Foods
- Davio's Steakhouse
- Nail Talk Fitness Salon
- Jen Matson/Artists' Crossing
- Deborah MacFail Jewelry
- Taronia Jewelry
- Out of the Blue Gallery
- Kitty Haas Jewelry
- Moroccan Caravan
- Vantel International
- Jose Gouveia (the Biker Poet)
- AAA
- AMC Theaters
- Beacon St. Laundromat
- José Mateo Ballet Theater
- R. Murphy Knives
- Solutions at Work
- Rug Depot
- Petsi Pies

Winning Bidders

- Lorraine Gagnon
- Stacey Falds
- Chris McKnett
- Renee Janson
- Krisha Paulson
- Samuel Weems
- Johnny Nguyen
- Tom Yaroschuk
- David Jefferson
- Debra A. Harkins
- Christopher Burke
- Stanley Chu
- Dee Doan
- Michelle Ronayne
- Erik Paulson
- Cynthia Becker
- Kristen Caretta
- John Hughes
- Vanessa Gilberth
- Joseph McHale
- Bill Balint
- Robert Karash
- Larry Biscotti

Performers, Poets and Volunteers

- Yani Batteau and her traditional bluegrass band
- Addi Ouadderrou and his acoustic Moroccan folk band
- Saso Sver (guitarist)
- Kirk Etherton (singer/songwriter/poet)
- Marc Goldfinger (Poetry Editor at Spare Change News)
- Jacques Fleury (author of Sparks in the Dark and SCN staff writer)
- Doug Holder
- Richard Hoffman
- Leah Hartman
- The Homeless Empowerment Project Development Committee
- Moroccan Caravan (decorations)